

LONG ISLAND FORUM



Village Avenue, Rockville Centre in 1890's.

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The Editor

The Misses Edna Pearsall and
Grace Mason
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Reader's Forum

Delivering Oysters

In the Spring of 1894 another young fellow, who was twenty-one and I, seventeen, ran an oyster boat for his father between Blue Point and the Fulton Market in New York City. Some of our trips weren't too exciting but one will always linger in my memory.

We left Blue Point one afternoon and stopped in Whig Inlet overnight to catch an ebb tide through the Fire Island Inlet the following day at four a.m. The next morning we got under way with two full sails and started. There was only a light breeze in the Inlet but as soon as we got outside we found a strong east wind so we had to furl the jib and put a small reef in the mainsail. We both knew that we were in for a serious time but there was no turning back—we simply had to go on.

We took squall after squall with rain and wind so strong that at times we had to lower all our mainsail and just run before the wind. In fact between Fire Island Inlet and Coney Island Point we made half the distance without any sail.

With the wind at almost gale force the waves began to rise and from up on a high crest we would slide down great sloping walls of water. This being my first experience of this kind I wondered how "far it was to the bottom" but we soon would be on top again taking another ride down. This went on for some time so we finally took it in our stride. At times waves would comb up from the rear and sweep the length of the boat. We soon saw that with so much water crashing down on us that the hatches could lift and that would be the end.

I then ducked into the cabin for a hammer and nails to nail them down. While I was fastening the hatches, down on my knees with a long oilcoat and hip boots a wave came aboard and lifted me to the leeward. Luckily my right foot just caught in a two inch rail that ran around the

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L. I. FORUM INDEX

The Queens Borough Public Library sells a complete index of the Long Island Forum for the years 1938-1947 inclusive, at \$1 postpaid. Also for the years 1948-1952 inclusive, at 50 cents postpaid. They may be obtained by writing to the Long Island Collection, Queens Borough Public Library, 89-14 Parsons Boulevard, Jamaica 32, New York.

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TIME TO ACT!

It was, of course, inevitable that with the tremendous development of Long Island in recent years that much of its native beauty should be lost. Yet we believe, even at this late date, that many scenic beauties have been needlessly sacrificed and can be restored by a determined citizenry.

Anyone at all familiar with our four counties knows that there are still many delightful towns, villages and stretches of countryside left. There is a definite reason for all this — because people have acted to prevent destruction in some areas. Yet the loveliness that remains seems far overshadowed by the blatancy and vulgarity of areas crowded with nightmarish structures splashed in purple and pink. Wildly waving pin-wheels and plastic pennants dazzle the motorist as he speeds o'er lengths of oil-smearred concrete once lazy, tree-shaded turnpikes.

Vivid billboards and irritatingly iridescent signs fairly shriek their vital messages concerning twelve inch hotdogs, pizza and cooler cola in colors and shapes calculated to confuse even the extreme expressionist. Much of Long Island is simply honky-tonk.

Our salt-clean atmosphere has been befouled by the stench of the Diesel

engine, our weakfish have been decimated by greed, our geese and mallards have been driven away by lack of meadows and the roar of jets and our once lovely fields are invaded by trailer camps and rusty car dumps. Must we succumb to ugliness?

Why do we like to go to East Hampton or Stony Brook, to cite two of the many places where beauty has been preserved? Simply because beauty is uplifting to the spirit, ennobling, restful and comforting. Why are these communities so attractive? The answer again is simple enough — because people have acted to preserve and restore them. Village Improvement Associations, Garden Clubs or any village, town or county organizations with consciences are the answer. They serve as powerful instruments whereby town fathers can be prodded or supported in their efforts to enact reasonable zoning laws, regulations on signs, setbacks and so forth.

Let every hamlet, town and county have such groups to keep what we have left — to do away with expendable ugliness — is it ever not expendable? Let every public official make it known that he has the desire to keep our land lovely and act accordingly.

It's time to act — throughout the Island. Man cannot live by bread alone even though it be enough to make a Hero Sandwich.

~~~~~  
"With an impoverished soil, denuded of trees and without its copious supply of pure water, Long Island would not have been chosen by the pioneers, and any part of it which loses these will soon change from a garden into a desert. Our inheritance should be jealously guarded."

Birdsall Jackson

~~~~~  
"What is all knowledge too but recorded experience, and a product of history;"

Thomas Carlyle

~~~~~  
"I love every thing that's old; old friends, old times, old manners, old books, old wines."

Oliver Goldsmith



Continued from Page 202  
boat and saved me from Davy Jones' Locker!

This same wave lifted my companion off his feet but he had the steering wheel in one hand and a rope fast to the cabin top with the other. It also swept ten bushels of oysters in sacks overboard that were stacked against the afterpart of the cabin. They had been put there to trim the boat on an even keel. After they were gone the trip was even more hazardous than before. Had the wind veered even one point more to the south we never could have cleared Barren Island Shoals, now called Rockaway Shoals, because there was no quartering those seas. We had to go directly with them to keep the boat right side up. As I look back that day seemed an eternity long.

After many hours when we were on the crest of a wave we could see the light-ship in Ambrose Channel. When we were not up there, however, there was nothing but a wall of water around us. The sight of that ship was a great relief—we knew that the worst of our trip was over.

It was really a question for some time as to who was going to get the oysters—Davy Jones or Fulton Market. It is remarkable how a small loaded boat can come through such times but it also shows how a man with the know-how can bring a boat through and it was my companion who did just that.

Had there been an early morning radio weather report such as we have now we should never have started that trip.

R. S. Abrams, Blue Point

Your article in a recent number of the L. I. Forum mentioning Mr. Pennypacker in connection with your collection of Long Island material interested me very much.

It was a pleasure to read your appreciation of his knowledge of and enthusiasm for Long Island.—Mrs. Morton Pennypacker. (Thank you Mrs. Pennypacker. Mr. Joralemon is very happy to know you liked the article.—Ed.)

Our grandsons are seeing Long Island through the Forum, and so are we, places of interest worthwhile to all. Mrs. Charles W. Dare, West Hempstead.



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# Judge Smith vs. "Punk's Holers"

Manorville is still a rural area, deep in the low scrubby woodlands of eastern Long Island, but along its borders other communities are changing rapidly under the residential and industrial pressures of the Grumman Aircraft Engineering Corporation and Brookhaven National Laboratory. Nearby, new housing, trailer camps, and business establishments are springing up, and the Long Island Expressway on the north and Sunrise Highway extensions on the south will soon bring the roar of twentieth century traffic to what has long been a quiet and sparsely inhabited wilderness.

It has changed but little since 1875 when the historian Bayles described it as "a scattered village of 318 population at the junction of the Sag Harbor branch and the main line of the Long Island Rail Road. There are four school districts, two churches, and two stores. Peconic River has its source near here and is fed by numerous ponds and marshes. The culture of cranberries is carried on extensively, and other products are cordwood, potatoes, cauliflower, and strawberries."

In 1793, when Manorville was called Punk's Hole as often as not, there were some thirty-eight tenants holding the lands in common, and these families were the heirs or assigns of some nineteen individuals who had purchased the land in 1721 from Benjamin Youngs of Southold; Youngs had bought it from a son of "Tangier" Smith, who had gained much of it in

by Chester G. Osborne

his second patent, the one dated 1697.

Youngs' deeds were probably as well-written as any of the period, but disputes frequently arose over boundaries and rights; quite often these disputes were between the tenants and the descendants of Colonel William "Tangier" Smith, and they reached their zenith in the late eighteenth century. During and immediately following the Revolutionary War the disagreements flamed into a feud. In that period, the head of the Manor of St. George was Judge William Smith (1720-1799), a grandson of "Tangier" Smith.

During the war, the Manor was seized by the British, who built Fort St. George at the southern extremity of the Smith holdings, near Smith's Point, not far from the present Mastic Beach. Judge Smith was absent from the Manor during most of the war for obvious reasons: for one thing, he was a leader in organizing the rebellion, and well-hated by both the British and their Tory followers; for another, he was a member of the new government of the State of New York, and followed the congresses as they changed location.

While Judge Smith was away, Manor affairs were left



Old Church at Manorville



in charge of William Booth, and from a manuscript signed by Booth we can see the state of affairs in the area:

"This is to Certify that I went on the lands at the head of Swift Stream see a great wast Committed in Cutting of Pine Timber, on Friday 30th day of June 1780. I met David Robenson & asked him where he got his logs.

"He told me at the head of Swift Stream, and had Carted from there a fortnight or three weeks.

"I asked said Robenson if he knew of any person Else carted logs from there.

"He told me his Brother Samuel Robenson, John Woodhull, Josiah & Jesse Reaner had Carted longer than he had.

"The next day, Saturday, the 1st of July, 1780, I met Josiah Reaner and his brother carting of pine logs. I asked said Reaner where he got them logs.

"He said, on his own land.

"I told him I did not bleve it, but thought he got them of Mr. Smith's land. I asked said Reaner whereabouts the

Land was—he cut the logs—

"He said it was at the head of Swift Stream.

"I told said Reaner that was Mr. Smith's lands.

"He said he had Cut & Carted a good Many from theire, and if Mr. Smith should arrest him for it, he would Stand him trial as he had done before.

"The same day I saw Samuelle Robenson, & asked said Robenson how he can cut so much timber of Mr. Smith's Land.

"He said he had cut five or six trees on Mr. Smith's land, and the rest at the heade of Swift Stream.

"July 4th I went to the place where—was at said stream and saw Robenson a Cuting of timber and said he had cut a great many there—  
Wm Booth"

David Robinson, according to Mather's "Refugees," was a resident of "St. George's Manor," and had served on the patriot side both with Long Island and Connecticut troops, but his whereabouts in the summer of 1780 is fixed fairly well by Booth's docu-

ment. Perhaps his war service was short, for perfectly valid reasons, but we think it likely that Judge Smith "got after" him when the war was over: in 1785, Smith hauled a group of men into court and asked damages of 300 pounds, claiming they had taken wood and occupied dwellings on his estate.

Soon after, Judge Smith's barn was burned down and some of his horses were killed. There are tales to the effect that his orchard trees were girdled and ruined, that he wanted to have enough sheep to reach in a line from Smith's Point to Manorville but his neighbors kept picking off the sheep at the Manorville end, that he was so afraid of his neighbors that he would not let his shadow fall before a window in a lighted room at night, "for fear of being shot at."

The colloquialisms above

Continued on Page 215

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# Nassau's South Shore

by Paul Bailey

An extremely important section of Long Island whose local history has not, in our opinion, been accorded the public attention it deserves is the Freeport-Baldwin-Rockville Centre area. Today these three communities seem as one to the motorist driving through on Merrick road, Sunrise highway or the Southern State Parkway, so closely together are they knit by building operations during the past four decades.

Time was within living memory when broad stretches of more or less vacant land lay between them. As new homes, new stores and new industrial plants filled in the gaps, there has been a tendency to overlook the fact that each of these three thriving communities has a distinct background of its own.

Baldwin, now said to be the largest unincorporated village in the State, antedates the others, according to most sources. Shortly after the town of Hempstead was founded in 1644 John Hicks and John Spragg negotiated the first purchase of land in what is now Baldwin from the Indians, giving the future village its first name—Hicks Neck. Neither Hicks nor Spragg settled here but some other inhabitants of the town did so and in 1686 one John Pine erected a gristmill on a five-acre tract on Milburn creek, awarded him by the town trustees for the purpose.

The trail leading from the north to Pine's mill and continuing on to the bay in time became Milburn avenue. An-

other early resident landowner of this section was John Tredwell. He and Pine together dammed the creek to form the millpond which many years later became a unit of the Brooklyn water supply system. The Tredwell farm, bordering the pond and eventually acquiring title to it, remained in the family for many years. The Pine tract, generations after the first miller's death became the property of Carman Smith who laid claim to the pond also. Extended litigation during the 1880's, however, decided in the Tredwell family's favor. It was shortly after this that the then city of Brooklyn acquired the pond from the Tredwell's.

This pond played an important part in Baldwin's early history, as also did the mill. At one time the mill was owned by a William Clowes who turned it into a wool factory to serve the

numerous sheep-farmers of Hempstead town. Later one Daniel Terry bought the property and re-established the gristmill. According to Daniel M. Tredwell in his "Reminiscences." Terry invented the screw propeller and first used it in a boat on the millpond.

Long before Terry's day, Hicks Neck had assumed a new name; that of Milburn Corners, later shortened by usage to Milburn. The section near the bay, however, which had expanded on its own account as a fishing village, retained the name of Hicks Neck for some years thereafter. Here stood a number of boatyards and several privately owned wharves or "landings" used for shipping farm products and other freight to city markets.

Meanwhile other sections along Merrick road, near which stood the old mill, had built up. Baldwin's first church, known as Bethel Chapel and occupied by the



Freeport Waterfront



Methodists, was erected in 1810 by Christian Snedeker. It stood on Grand avenue near St. Luke's place and served its purpose until 1843 when the congregation built a larger edifice on the south side of Merrick road. A private school was established by William Fowler shortly after 1815 as the little red public school could not accomodate the ever increasing number of would-be pupils. In the early 1830's a larger public school was built on Grand avenue. When it burned down a still larger structure was built.

Among Baldwin's early schoolmasters were Jesse Pettit who abandoned his post to join the westward Mormon pilgrimage; John Magee and Thomas Smith. During the 1830's James Frost was the village grocer and John I. Lott operated a cider mill. Thomas Baldwin operated the Baldwin House on Grand avenue and Merrick road, and a general store, under the name of T. Baldwin & Sons. The Baldwins were for several generations among the leading local residents and it was from them that the village was first called Baldwins, later amended to Baldwin. For a brief period, however, it was known as Baldwinsville. In all, the village

has had six names.

Francis, a son of Thomas Baldwin, served as treasurer of Queens County prior to the erection of Nassau County in 1898. He also served in the State Assembly. His large estate on Merrick road later became the home of George W. Loft, the candy manufacturer. A brother of Francis, Elisha Baldwin, served Queens County as county clerk. About 1895 the village organized a fire department with John Carl as chief.

In 1921 the Women's Advance Club of Baldwin purchased the large building that had long housed Wortman's General Store and presented it to the Baldwin Public Library. Greatly improved and enlarged, it still serves in that capacity.

As in the case of Freeport and Rockville Centre, Baldwin's greatest growth has oc-

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# Revolutionary Romances

by Peter L. Van Santvoord

Several of the more interesting stories of Long Island during the Revolution deal with romances, both successful and tragic, between Royal soldiers and colonial girls, often of Patriot families. The most famous of these is the attraction of Major John Andre to Sally Townsend of Oyster Bay, which is of real historical importance. But the other love stories, while obscure and not as well documented, also make interesting reading.

Isaac Remsen, a Wolver Hollow (Brookville) Patriot of Dutch descent, served in Colonel Josiah Smith's regiment in 1776; he was a participant in the campaign which culminated in the disastrous Battle of Long Island, after which Royal troops occupied the Island. His daughter Martha fell in love with James Hume, a Second Lieutenant in his Majesty's army. Hume was presumably a Highlander: he was certainly Scotch and in an old genealogy he is styled as Lord Hume, but it is much more likely that he was a Scotch laird (large aristocratic landowner) than an actual member of the peerage.

These young people were married on May 17, 1781 by Mr. Cutting of Hempstead. The groom was about 30 and the bride only 16 years old. It is said that they returned to Scotland for a time after the war, but they later settled permanently in Wolver Hollow.

Hume dropped his claim to



The End of The Pearsall House

nobility—if indeed he had ever exercised it—and was referred to simply as Captain Hume. Apparently he suffered no ostracism from having fought on the losing side, despite the fact that he resided in a Patriot stronghold. He was active in the Farmers Harmonizing Society, the local social group. He had at least 4 children, but only one daughter married, and she left no descendants. Captain James Hume died July 19, 1807 and is buried in the old part of the Wolver Hollow cemetery. His widow survived him for many years.

But another love story did not have such a happy ending. Lieutenant James Keating of the Royal Army was billeted in the house of Thomas Pearsall during the British occupation. During August of 1776 he fell in love with Patty Pearsall, daughter of his unwilling host. But in October of that year he received orders to return to England, and the romance was perforce terminated. Before leaving he

cut the following inscription on the glass of his bedroom window:

The dear and lovely Patty Pearsall, Joy of my heart and comfort of my eye. The only care and business of my youth.

Friday, Oct. 16, 1776 Lieut Thomas Keating went from this House, at which he was agreeably quartered, to go to Europe.

Lieutenant Keating's ship, bound for England, was lost at sea, and there were no survivors: "the news broke Patty's heart and destroyed her reason."

There is not much doubt as to the location of Thomas Pearsall's house. Stoutenburgh refers to it as being just across the old "Boundry line" between Cedar Swamp and Musketo Cove. Also, in 1778, Pearsall signed an account for 10 wagon loads of hay taken by the King's Quarter Master "from the Subscriber near Musketo-cove." So the house must have



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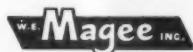
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been the one which stood on Glen Street opposite St. Patrick's R. C. Church, Glen Cove, which was later occupied by General James B. Pearsall of the same family.

This venerable home, the last salt-box house in Glen Cove, was torn down this summer to make way for the State Arterial. It is still not too late to place some kind of roadside marker to indicate where it stood.

General Pearsall was a man of considerable prominence. A short biography of him, written by the late Horace K. T. Sherwood, appeared in the Forum in June of 1955. He was Governor Samuel J. Tilden's aide in 1875, took a prominent part in the Presidential campaign of 1876, and later served as State engineer-in-chief under Governor Lucius Robinson. The General's son still had the inscribed pane of glass in his possession in the early years of this century. I believe the present family descendants live in Manchester, Vermont.

Two other Revolutionary romances involved members of the Hegeman family. Adrian Hegeman, who had married Achbutche (Egbertie) Van Nostrand, died in the service of the American Army (Laton's Company, militia foot) at Cripple Bush, October 5, 1776. His widow married John Peter Row, a Scotchman, in 1780; and one of her daughters, Jannetye, married John McQueen, another Scot. At the conclusion of the War, both families moved to Nova Scotia, as did many other Tories, where they were given free land.

Before his departure, John McQueen secured from Sir Guy Carleton, Knight of the Bath and Royal Commander in the American colonies, the appointment of Second Lieu-

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tenant in the 14th Company of militia, then bound for Nova Scotia. In later years, he was employed as a Cordwainer.

Row was forced to leave his wife in Oyster Bay until he could get established in his new home. By 1785 he was expecting that she would soon join him, and advised her to "Bring as little of your havy Lumber as you can Dou without, as freghs is very Dear, and you can turn them into mony but I shall leav it to you. I have not got to forward with my hows as I expected at this time, but I have a ruem joynen my house ready for you when you come hear.

"So No Mor at Present, but Remands your Loving husand John Pr Row"

It would be unfair to attribute his frugality to his nationality, since these were the times of postwar depression. Mrs. Row finally did join her husband. Apparently neither family ever returned to Long Island.

There are undoubtedly many more cases of British soldiers marrying American women on Long Island during the occupation and immediately after the war. Probably they felt at home here. Even today, visitors from the United Kingdom say that the rolling country, seashore, fog, hedgerows, narrow lanes, and beautiful gardens of North Shore Long Island remind

them more of their homeland than does any other part of the United States.

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Continued from Page 208  
 curred since the post-war days of World War I. Up to that time, as a matter of fact, Freeport had outstripped her two sister villages in size and progress.

Raynortown, as Freeport was first known, was first settled in the 1650s by up-country farmers of Hempstead town who went there to cut salt-hay and to fish. Here as in Baldwin, the bay produced great quantities of oysters which were shipped through Jones Inlet to the New York markets. The name Raynortown came from the Raynor family members of which were among its earliest inhabitants. But there were also Smiths (of the Rock Smith branch), Pearsalls, Jacksons, Seamans, Bedells and Hicks's.

Early Indian deeds of Hempstead town do not mention Raynortown. A deed of 1680 refers to the area as Washburn's Neck and Coe's Neck. Freeport's oldest building up to a few decades ago when it fell apart was the Raynor homestead, erected in 1783 by one Daniel Raynor. The Bedell homestead, still standing on the northwest corner of Randall avenue and Main street, was built by Jacob Bedell in 1795. During the Revolution, Raynortown was a very small community indeed. It was not until many years later that it officially acquired its present name. When in 1858 it acquired a post office under the name of Freeport, some residents there were who preferred the good old name of Raynortown. It seems that the term "the free port" had originated among shipowners who had brought rum and other West

Indies cargoes through Jones Inlet to the little village on the bay to escape the duties imposed in New York harbor. Needless to say, years later during the prohibition era when the entire south shore of Long Island was rife with illicit imports, members of Freeport's large actors' colony frequently reverted to the old form of "the free port."

And speaking of this colony of theatrical people which comprised a considerable part of the local population during the 1920s, it accounts for the village's tremendous growth at that time. After being incorporated in 1892, with an assessed valuation of \$423,218 and a population of 1821, Freeport experienced only normal growth during the following two decades. On its first village tax roll were 47 Smiths and 41 Raynors. Its first village president was Carman Cornelius and its first street commissioner John J. Randall, whose public services won him the title of "the father of Freeport," and whose name is perpetuated in Randall Park, his gift to the municipality for which he did so much.

Stage folk began migrating to Freeport about 1910. By 1915 their number had grown to such proportions that they organized the Lights Club, far famed for its many benefit performances donated to aid worthy causes about the island. The name Lights came from the initials of the Long Island Good Hearted Thespian Society, whose deeds were all that the name implied. Among its members were some of the country's leading actors, playwrights and songwriters. Fred Stone, un-

til he moved to nearby Amityville, Leo Carillo, Billy Gould, Victor Moore, Charles Mack, Frank Tinney, Billy Murray, Billy Reeves and others equally famous were among them.

Harry Von Tilzer and his brother Al wrote many of their popular ballads at their homes in Freeport, among Harry's being *Wait Till the Sun Shines Nellie*, *A Bird in a Gilded Cage*, *Please Go 'Way and Let Me Sleep*, and *Alexander*. Stanley Murphy composed *Put On Your Old Gray Bonnet* at his Freeport home, and it was nearby that Ernest R. Ball wrote *When Irish Eyes Are Smiling*.

The actors' colony is credited with having first spread the fame of Freeport as a sportsfishing centre. The inimitable Sophie Tucker, an ardent summer resident, once remarked that her actor neighbors spun so many yarns on the vaudeville stage about Freeport's big fish that folks came there in droves to live and go fishing. Certain it is that Freeport owes much of its growth to the acting and fishing fraternities.

Rockville Centre, of the three sister villages, alone boasts of a place in Revolutionary history. There was, it seems, a so-called "battle of Rockville Centre." Made much of by early local historians, it was scarcely a scrimmage, and it occurred, not in what is now the thriving village, but in Demott's swamp, to the north. It took place June 22, 1776, when a small group of local militiamen chased an even smaller group of local Tories into the swamp, near Demott's gristmill. At the edge of the swamp, the Tories opened



fire at their pursuers. Unscathed, the latter returned the fire and a young Tory named George Smith received a simple flesh-wound. The Tories thereupon surrendered and were marched off to jail.

Rockville Centre did not actually take the form of a community until after 1850. It was that year that Robert Pettit of Lawrence purchased the extensive farmlands of the DeMott family. These lands and an equally large area belonging to the Rev. Mordecai Smith comprised a large part of the site of the present municipality. Four years later, Pettit, together with John P. Rhodes and Julius Auerbach, purchased the Smith farm and combined the two holdings into what they first called Smithtown. Finding, however, that one

Richard "Bull" Smith of Suffolk County had chosen the name for his town nearly 200 years before, the new owners renamed their tract Rockville. Informed by the post office department that New York State already had a Rockville, they added the Centre.

Shortly after the close of the Civil War the area, having been subdivided by its owners, first began to acquire the appearance of a community. A considerable number of its earliest home-owners were employees of Brooklyn's water department, then engaged in establishing a water supply system in Hempstead town to meet the city's increased needs. Many others who elected to live here were Brooklyn businessmen who commuted to and from their city jobs. But, like Freeport

and Baldwin, Rockville Centre did not experience a rapid growth in population until the 1920s, even though it had become a municipality in 1893.

During the past three decades, the community has spread in all directions and towards the east blended with expanding Baldwin which has meanwhile blended with fast growing Freeport to its east. There has even been talk of the three communities seeking a common city charter. But whether or not this is ever done, each should and undoubtedly will take pride in its own particular background—its own pages of local history.

It is a wonderful magazine and we have gotten lots of pleasure from it.—Mrs. Harry A. Bernard, Sayville.

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### Wyandanch's Kidnapped Daughter

We must plead ignorant to knowing who first told the story in glamorous detail of the kidnapping of Chief Wyandanch's daughter Quashawam. Wrote the late John H. Morice: "When Ninegret and his Narragansetts raided the Montauks one night in 1653, Quashawam, the daughter of Wyandanch and his royal squaw Wuchikittawbut, was about to become the bride of a young chief of the Shinnecock clan."

Quashawan, or Heather Flower as the white inhabitants of East Hampton called her, being Wyandanch's only daughter was given an elaborate wedding. It was at its height when the New England redskins descended upon the party, burning the wigwams and slaying a number of local braves including the groom. The bride was taken a captive to Connecticut.

The following year, on April 4, 1654, the Rev. Thomas James, East Hampton's first minister and, like Lion Gardiner, a friend of Wyandanch, wrote Connecticut Governor Winthrop that Wyandanch had received demands of ransom for his daughter's return. Mr. James mentioned specifically Chief Uncas of the Mohegans having offered to effect a rescue for, of course, a suitable length of wampum.

"Although Lion Gardiner's name does not appear in this narrative," wrote Mr. Morice, "he is said to have had a hand in the matter and for restoring the maiden to her father's home he was liberally rewarded by the gift of a large tract of land which later became the major portion of Smithtown." Here is the source of further confusion as the town site of Smithtown is supposed to have been acquired by Richard Smith directly from the Nissequog Indians by riding his pet bull about the area in a single stretch of daylight.

Be that as it may, even though Gardiner awarded Smith the title to future Smithtown, the latter still had to obtain a deed from the Indians.

P. B.

### Natural Mystery

A few years ago when in Egypt I was told by my dragoman that plant seeds had been recovered from a tomb where they had been buried for thousands of years and that they were planted and grew! I recounted this story to some of my friends who laughed heartily telling me that I was a fool to believe a dragoman. But then the other day I was idly turning the pages of Gabriel Furman's "Antiquities of Long Island" and read the following:

"The northern extremity of Fire Island has within that period (1834-1874) received an addition of between forty and fifty acres; and what is still more curious is, that this new made ground, which, forty years ago, was under the waves of the ocean, is now covered with a scrubby white oak tree, and there are no trees of the kind at any other place within miles of the spot. How did they come there?"

Continued on Page 217

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Continued from Page 206

are not as vigorous as this bit, quoted to us by Brookhaven Town's historian. Osborn Shaw, and attributed to Smith's neighbors; it is a sprightly verse in the style of an epitaph:

"There he lies,  
Old watery eyes.  
Where he goes,  
No one knows.  
How he fares,  
No one cares."

After losing the barn and horses, Judge Smith made an effort to discover and to get compensation from the guilty person or persons. His experience as "Second Judge of Suffolk County" had taught him that nothing equaled a clear, signed statement from a witness, so he gathered a quantity of testimony such as this:

"January ye 24th 1785 the testimony of Henry Ross that Josiah Rayner, Isaac Dayton and Elexander Morin on the

pretense of hunting but he did not See they had either Gun axe or Dog with them they set off about Sun one houre high in the After Noon of the Day before William Smiths barn and horses was burnt, the Morning after the barn was burnt he the Deponent Says he was invited by Isaac Dayton to go to Benjamin Rayners to Drink a Dram the Sun being about two or three hours high he then found Benjn Rayner on the bed a Sleep as he Supposed

Sworn before me Wm Smith  
Judge"

Four years later, Judge Smith was still collecting "depositions" such as this from "Clary" or "Claresse" Ross: "that the Evening before William Smith barn was burnt, about Sun two hours high, there was at Isaac Daytons, Elexander Morrin, Benjamin Rayner, Isaac Rayner, with Isaac Rayner, contriving something.

"She asked them what they was Contriving about. They told her She Did not know nor Should not.

"At that time Elexander Morrin walked backwards

and forwards before the Door and said, 'Dam the old Watery Eyes, if he is catcht three Steps from the Door this night he Shall lose his head.'

"Further saith She lived at the house at that time with Isaac Daytons. And Josiah Rayner joined them and the Company was to meet at Jerusalem Hollow, which is near three or four Mile Southward. Isaac Dayton Did not return home until near or quite the break of day, about Sun half an hour high. Isaac Dayton's brother Nathaniel Dayton came to the house and She saw the two brothers a few rods from the house, engaged in talking and laughing.

"She then imagined they had been about Some private business the Night before which they were a talking of. In the morning before breakfast, Isaac Dayton went to Benjamin Rayners, and by eleven or twelve a Clock She heard William Smiths barn was burnt June 30th 1788 Swore before me William Smith Judge."

On the reverse side of Clary's statement, "John Turner, John Gordon, John

Continued on Page 218

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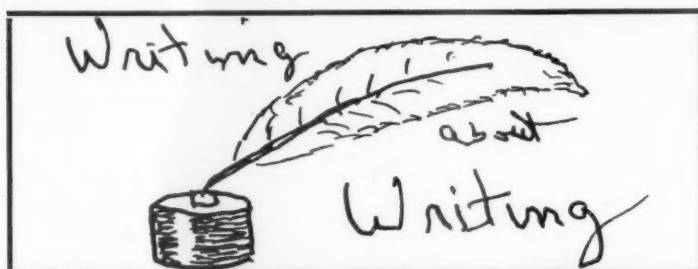
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ON THE FIRST of August last, Miss Edna Huntington, capable librarian of the Long Island Historical Society in Brooklyn, retired. Miss Huntington, who was with the Society for some 44 years, certainly deserves retirement but she will be sorely missed by many of us who were helped so greatly by her. Always patient and willing she knew every inch of the huge old library.

Miss Huntington once put together a pamphlet, "Historical Markers and Monuments in Brooklyn," which is a very helpful contribution. Now she has ideas about expanding this sort of work for all of Long Island. Quite a project.

If any of our readers could guide her to sources of information on this subject please write her at 490 Second St., Brooklyn.

EVERY SO OFTEN community cook books appear—the latest we've seen is "50 Years With The Springs Village Improvement Society."

Springs, for the benefit of some of you West Enders who may not know, is a delightful community near East Hampton out Three Mile Harbor way. George Miller, Sr. has written a brief history of "Springs or Accabonac" in the booklet wherein he tells us that "There is a tradition that the first settler of Springs was a King." If so what a story THAT would make! Can you tell us more, Mr. Miller?

The booklet was nicely printed by the East Hampton Star. Any other cook books been issued lately? If so we'd like to have them. Here's why from the Springs book:

#### CLAM CHOWDER

"Fry very quickly without burning 6 slices of diced salt pork. Add one quart of ground onions, 2 quarts of diced potatoes, salt and pepper to taste, and enough water to cook. When potatoes are cooked, add 1 quart of ground clams and 1 quart of broth. Cook for a few minutes and add

one can of tomatoes. Cook slowly for 2 hours or longer."

Try that on your four (six?) burner!

A FAMOUS LONG Islander, Judge Harold Medina of Westhampton, has written a book, "The Anatomy of Freedom" that should be read by all thoughtful Americans and, of course, by the thoughtless too for it might improve their condition.

Mr. Khrushchev's recent visit to the United States at time showed us an angry man—when he was too closely questioned or even questioned at all because you just aren't supposed to question a dictator. Judge Medina then has given a timely warning of the double-talking tactics of the Communists and has shown us the need for a constant reminder that we can worship as we please, live and work where we please and think and speak as we please. He has tempered his reminder by pointing out the differences to do as we please with unbridled license and shown the need for sensible laws.

His book is a well balanced mixture of well phrased essays on freedom and personal reminiscences of his—the defense of Cramer, the Communist trials of 1949. There is an informality of style and

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"We rushed out to our country place Friday afternoons with a state trooper ahead and an FBI car behind."

The Judge has long known the proper place to relax—he used to refer to his place as "Still To Windward." (It is near a duck farm) perhaps he still does. He's written other books—we hope for more. *Anatomy of Freedom* is published by Henry Holt and Co. C. J. M.

The enclosed check for renewal of my subscription to the Forum is the surest way I can find to show you how I enjoy your wonderful magazine. It is worth many times its cost.—Richard A. Winsche, Bellerose.

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Continued from Page 214

Some will say that the seed was carried there by birds. But if that be so, why do we not find some other trees and plants there; the birds do not live alone upon the seed of the scrub white oak, and the soil is quite as well adapted for the growth of several other kinds of plants as it is for that species of tree? But that is not the explanation of that phenomenon. The earth is filled, even under the sea, and at very great depths, with the seeds of numerous trees and plants, which will retain their germinating properties for an indefinite period of

time; and it may be even from a period anterior to the great deluge; and they require only to be brought up to within a certain depth of the surface to have the vivifying principles of the sun and air to operate on them to develop those germinating properties.

"That seeds will retain their power of germinating when not subjected to the action of heat, is within the knowledge of great numbers of people, who often see it without thinking at all about it. Not to refer to the instance of Egyptian wheat, which

Continued on Back Page

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Paul H. Curts, Bridgehampton.

Continued from Page 215

Barnes, Henry Ross & Clary  
Ross attended the Grand Jury  
Sept 2nd 1789."

"David Yonge" reported that "It is commonly said by People that William Smiths Barn was burnt by the People called the Punkshole People," but he feared to testify because someone might do him "private injury." Nathaniel Brown, Daniel Rose and Ezekiel Rose said much the same thing, and Ezekiel added, "It is reported in the "Manor that Tuthil Dayton has said he would shute William Smith as he would a Piggion," and went on to say that David Hallock had laughed when he heard the news of the burned barn.

Daniel Robertson supposed that "his Neighbors" were guilty.

Samuel Robertson's name was listed as though he had started to testify, and then did not.

Goldsmith Davis said, "the aforesaid Punkshole People is a malicious People of bad Fame." Capt. John Havens recalled that Doxey Lane had said that the Punksholers would "unanimously defend their land in dispute between them and William Smith, by force of arms." Lane, whose war record is mentioned in Mather's "Refugees" and in an account book of Judge Smith, claimed to have been in New York at the time of the incident, and expressed apprehension that Smith might receive "further injury."

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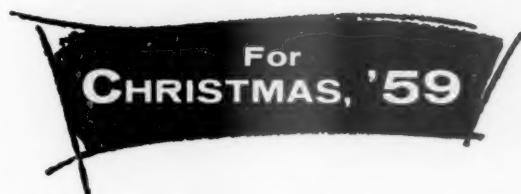
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Continued from Page 217

after being buried with a mummy in air-tight enclosure, for a period of three thousand years, was found to germinate and grow well, and is now cultivated in many parts of Europe, and also in this country; you may dig down a hill of mere sand, fifty or an hundred feet, and the year subsequent to the exposure of this new surface to the action of the atmosphere, it will be covered with a growth of plants and grasses peculiar to itself. Some years since, Israel Carll, Esq., of Suffolk County, having a large number of young cattle, which he kept in an extensive pasture by themselves, finding it very inconvenient for his herdsmen to drive them some distance for water, determining to sink a well on that pasture lot, near its centre, did so. They obtained water sufficient at the depth of forty feet; but several feet be-

fore obtaining that depth, they passed, through nothing but gravel; this gravel was spread out in a circle around the well at a regular declination from every side. The summer of the second season, after digging that well, the circle thus covered with that gravel stood as thick with a crop of luxuriant white clover as possible, and not a blade of grass could be seen in any other part of the field."

Well, Mr. Editor what do you think? Are Gabriel Furman and my dragoman both wrong or are my friends wrong?

Charles Wilson, Brooklyn  
(Editor's note. We hope a scientific reader will give us the answer. We're inclined to agree with Gabriel Furman since we recently stood in London near a bombed out area. There was luxuriant vegetation where buildings had stood for many years. Birds maybe—we dunno.)

so Eugene Griffing who lives in Florida. I was on his fishing vessel as a hired hand at the age of 13.

Raymond L. Patterson,  
Madison, N. J.

I wish to thank you for the review (of John Sloss Hobart, Forgotten Patriot) in the September Forum.

You may be interested to know that a U.S. Senate Committee wrote to me last week to know if I had found out where Judge Hobart is buried. But it is still a mystery.

Mary Voyse,  
Eaton's Neck, N. Y.

Enclosed is a check for another year's subscription to the L. I. Forum. I am a native East-end Long Islander and my husband is a native Virginian. We both look forward to reading every article in the Forum and enjoy it so much. Mrs. Howard Berry,

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It certainly is a very interesting magazine. A friend of mine, Wilbur Corwin of Bellport, writes many of your articles. Many years ago I used to go hunting with him at his lodge down there. Al-

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